

Greenways and Trails Program E-News

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Fall 2011

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**DCR Launches Virginia
Outdoors Plan update**

In preparation for the 2013 Virginia Outdoors Plan, DCR will hold a series of public meetings across the state to get input on the

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Welcome to the DCR Greenways and Trails Program News Group. Scroll down for information on how to unsubscribe or update your profile.

New trail opens along the Mayo River

The first phase of the Mayo River Rail Trail opened September 30 in Patrick County. A local taxpayer watch group concerned about ongoing maintenance costs and the local match required for the federal grant presented a list of about 700 signatures in opposition to the project to local supervisors.

Many supporters attended the opening celebration and wanted to know when the trail would be finished. One woman celebrated her 91st birthday by walking on the trail. Marketing director Wima Pendleton says "This trail is highly supported by the community. People are on the trail even on rainy days. The scout troupe has already started working on a picnic area, the Master Gardeners are getting ready to plant trees that were donated and the schools will be naming the plants--plus it will be used for the "trout in the classroom" session each year."

If future phases are realized, the three-mile multi-use trail will connect downtown Commerce Street in Stuart to the Walmart on Rt. 58. The trail will be built along portions of the rail bed of the Danville and Western Railroad (the "Dick and Willie") which ran through the county from 1884 to 1942.

Public opposition to trail projects raises the question "does investment in biking and walking get us our money's worth?" Read [more](#) or join the conversation at [American Trails](#).

Virginia Bicycling Federation becomes ECG sponsor

The East Coast Greenway Alliance has announced that they have signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the Virginia Bicycling Federation to be the ECG's official representative for the Commonwealth of Virginia.

outdoor recreational needs of our citizens. For a complete list of meeting dates, times and locations, check DCR's [Planning and Recreation Resources](#) page. The first meeting will be held at the [Central Shenandoah Planning District](#) in Staunton December 13 at 3 p.m. and again a 7 p.m.

Draft James River Conceptual Plan online

A draft of the James River Heritage Trail [conceptual plan](#) is available for your comments until Dec. 1, 2011.

Upcoming Grants

[Transportation Enhancements](#)

Due 11/1/11

[2012 AmeriCorps State & National Planning Grants](#)

Due Jan. 18, 2012

[AmeriCorps State and National Grant Competitions](#)

Due Jan. 18, 2012

[NACDD Achieve Community Grant](#)

Due Nov. 7, 2011

[NRPA Achieve Grant](#)

Due Nov. 8, 2011

[YMCA of the USA Achieve Grant](#)

Due Nov. 4, 2011

[Marketing Leverage Program](#)

Due Oct. 27, 2011

Based in Richmond, the [Virginia Bicycling Federation](#) is a statewide bicycling advocacy organization who has worked closely with state and national organizations to identify and route long distance cycling routes in the state.

"The VBF has worked on the US Bike Route System for a number of years and helping to identify, plan and promote the Greenway in Virginia is a natural fit for us," said Champe Burnley, President of the VBF. "VDOT has responsibility for on road bike routes and DCR manages trails, so the ECG is a rather unique entity. I'm confident the VBF can really add value to the process."

The [East Coast Greenway](#) is the nation's most ambitious long-distance urban trail project. By connecting existing and planned shared-use trails, a continuous, 3,000 mile, route is being created. The Greenway links Calais, Maine at the Canadian border with Key West, Florida. Alternate routes will add another 2,000 miles to the ECG trail system. The Greenway will connect the 25 major cities along the East Coast.

More information about the East Coast Greenway or Virginia Bicycling Federation can be found at [greenway.org](#) or [vabike.org](#).

Connecting our State Parks to the Community

In this issue, we are highlighting [New River Trail State Park](#). This 57-mile linear park is located in Pulaski, Wythe, Carroll and Grayson counties and straddles the Blue Ridge and the Ridge and Valley provinces of Virginia. The park lies along 39 miles of the New River, and along 12 miles of Chestnut Creek, a beautiful rocky stream. Other portions of the trail border the highly popular recreational lake, Claytor Lake, and Peak Creek. The trail passes beneath Interstate 81 near Pulaski, and Draper is the closest access point to the interstate (about 60 miles south of Roanoke). The park's current headquarters is located at Foster Falls, which can be reached from the Poplar Camp exit off Interstate 77 near its intersection with Interstate 81. Bicycle, kayak, and canoe rentals and guided horse rides are available at Foster Falls.

Mark Hufeison, who managed the park for 19 years and made it one of Virginia's most visited state parks, lost his battle with cancer this year. The Jackson Ferry horse complex has been named the Mark E. Hufeison Horse Complex and Arena in his honor. Read more about Mark at

[American Civil War
Sesquicentennial Marketing
Program](#)

Nov. 17, 2011

[VDCTEC Matching grants](#) for
electronic marketing initiatives
available

[Smart Growth Implementation
Assistance](#)

Letters of Interest
Due Oct. 28, 2011

[Sustainable Communities
Building Blocks](#)

Letters of Interest
Due Oct. 28, 2011

[Governors Institute for
Sustainable Design](#)

Due Dec. 5, 2011

[Funding opportunities in Virginia](#)

Other National Funding
Opportunities

[Grants.gov](#) is the federal funding
site for 1000 grant programs
offered by 26 agencies.

Historical Maps Online

High resolution scans of the
more than 200,000
historical USGS
topographic maps, some
dating as far back as 1884,
are now available online.
Visit [The Historical
Topographic Maps](#)
collection for more
information.

For GIS users, some
historical maps are
available at the
[ArcGIS Explorer Resource](#)

[American Trails.](#)

The Commonwealth of Virginia acquired the New River Trail State Park in 1986 as a donation from the [Norfolk-Southern Corporation](#). Norfolk Southern also donated the corridor for [High Bridge Trail State Park](#).

Nearby public lands include the Blue Ridge Parkway and the George Washington and Jefferson National Forest (which includes the Virginia Highlands Horse Trail and the New River Campground). The Appalachian Trail is nearby, and other major trails in close proximity to the park include the Huckleberry Trail, the Radford Riverway, and Interstate Bike Route 76.

Private rental cabins and public campsites are available along the trail near your destination. Click [here](#) to book your primitive campsite today.

Future State Park in Albemarle County

Biscuit Run master plan underway

by Janit Llewellyn Allen

The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation held a second public meeting in Albemarle County last month to present a draft master plan for the future Biscuit Run State Park.

A master plan is written for each state park and serves as a guide for development for approximately 20 years. Park master plans are reviewed every five years. An advisory committee of local residents and representatives of different park user groups assists with master-plan development.

The Biscuit Run site is 1,200 acres between Route 20 and Old Lynchburg Road in Albemarle County. The local trail community expressed interest in trail connections to the park, so recommendations for internal trails as well as connections to regional and local trails were presented.

For more information, contact Janit Llewellyn Allen, environmental programs planner, at 804-786-0887 or janit.llewellyn@dcr.virginia.gov.

[Center.](#)

Trends in Outdoor Recreation

2011 Outdoor Recreation Report

The Outdoor Foundation's fifth annual Outdoor Recreation Participation Report is now available to help us better understand and address America's inactivity crisis and the disconnect between children and nature. The report covers 114 different outdoor activities, and is available on [The Outdoor Foundation](#) website.

2011 Calendar

VDOT Multimodal Transportation Investment Public Hearings
Oct. 20 through Nov. 30
Click [here](#) for specific meeting information in your area.

October 24-27, 2011
[Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals - Professional Development Seminar](#)
Charlotte, NC

Nov. 1-3, 2011
[NRPA Congress and Exposition](#)
Active Minds, Healthy Nation
Atlanta, GA

Oct. 29 - Nov. 2, 2011

Getting Kids on Trails

Pathways to Play

The National Learning Initiative has released a resource for trail designers who want to encourage active lifestyles for children. The book *Pathways for Play: Best Practice Guidelines* offers 10 critical considerations, 5 best practice design principles and 7 implementation steps for successfully building playful pathways. The benefits of these pathways include extending play value, enabling health promotion, expanding inclusion, engaging with nature, reinforcing environmental literacy, walkable, bikeable community connectivity, and growing community social capital. Read more or request the book at [Pathways for Play](#).

On a related subject, the National Conference of State Legislatures has released a report on policies that promote healthy kids and communities. The report summarized state legislation in two policy categories--healthy eating and physical activity, and healthy community design and access to healthy food. Forty-one states enacted some form of healthy eating and/or active living legislation from 2009 to 2010. Click here to access the full [report](#).

Also see [Strategies for Enhancing the Built Environment to Support Healthy Eating and Active Living](#).

David Brickley wins national award

Former DCR Director and Board member David Brickley was honored on October 1 at the [Rails-to-Trails Conservancy](#) (RTC) 25th anniversary. RTC recognized individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to the rail-trail movement during the past quarter century. David was honored with the inaugural Doppelt Family Rail-Trail Champions Award for his enormous contribution to the trails movement in Virginia and surrounding states.

"The rail-trail movement has been extremely fortunate to have many senior elected officials and parks staff as strong supporters of our mission," says RTC President Keith Laughlin. "David Brickley heads that list. His work on behalf of trails and greenways in Virginia during the past 30 years is a tremendous gift to his state and visitors from across the country."

APHA Annual Meeting - Healthy Communities Promote Healthy Minds & Bodies

Washington, DC.

Email:

eloisa.raynault@apha.org

Nov. 3-4, 2011

Placemaking: Making it Happen

New York, NY.

email: cwang@pps.org

Opportunity for National Recognition

Applications due November 1

If your trail is a good candidate for national recognition, submit an application for National Recreation Trail designation by Nov. 1. Read [more](#) about how to apply.

US Forest Service

Trail Fundamentals

The US Forest Service has developed yet another great tool for assisting trail managers. Their Trail Fundamentals provide a consistent way to communicate design and management guidelines broken down into five areas, trail type, trail class, managed use, designed use, and trail design parameters. For more information, click [here](#).

Brickley is president of the [September 11th National Memorial Trail Alliance](#), which is promoting the development of a 1,130-mile trail and greenway connecting the three memorial sites of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States: the Flight 93 National Memorial in Shanksville, Pa., the Pentagon Memorial and New York City's National September 11 Memorial.

Congratulations to other award winners!

Congratulations to Botetourt County for winning the best promotional effort in both print and electronic media for [The Upper James River Water Trail](#) at the Virginia Recreation and Park Society Awards Banquet. This follows an earlier award by the The Virginia Association of Counties (VACo) that recognized the water trail as the best in county government programs in the parks and recreation category.

The Best New Greenway, Blueway or Trail VRPS award went to [Henry County](#) for the Dick and Willy Trail. Henry County Parks and Recreation also won for the best promotional effort apparel piece--the grand opening T-shirt.

The [Eastern Virginia Mountain Bike Association](#) won the Distinguished Private Sector Service award for their work in James City County.

Best New Program awards went to Roanoke Parks and Recreation for their [Wednesday Night Disco-Mountain Bike Race](#) series, and to Stafford County for their [Leaping Leprechauns Youth Trail Run](#).

Thanks to all the dedicated volunteers and creative park staff that make the world more fun for the rest of us!

Map-21--Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century

The Proposed Transportation Bill

In July, a bi-partisan committee released the [outline](#) of a new transportation bill that consolidates seven core highway programs from the current SAFETEA-LU law into five: the National Highway Performance Program, Transportation Mobility Program, National Freight Program and Highway Safety Improvement Program and the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program. This outline DOES

Douthat Horse Trails Opened October 15

Horses are now allowed on the Alleghany Highlands Multiuse, Equestrian State Trail only for day users. This trail shares six miles of [Douthat](#) State Park's trail system, and is clearly marked as multiuse trails.

An equestrian parking lot is open to day users to allow for horse trailer parking.

For general park information contact the park office at (540) 862-8100 or email Douthat State Park at Douthat@dcr.virginia.gov.

Tree ID on the Trail

Have you ever been hiking and wondered what kind of tree you were admiring? Now there are iPhone apps to help you "know that specimen." Check out [MY NATURE TREE GUIDE](#) and [AUDUBON TREES: A FIELD GUIDE TO NORTH AMERICA](#).

*DCR Trails Program Mission:
Provide assistance and
education to encourage the
development, maintenance and
promotion of attractive,
sustainable and connected trails
throughout the state.*

Jennifer Wampler
Trails Coordinator
jennifer.wampler@dcr.virginia.gov
Virginia Dept of Conservation &
Recreation, Division of

NOT mention the dedicated funding for biking and walking included in the existing Transportation Enhancements program, but focuses on "key outcomes," including reduced fatalities, improving bridges and reducing congestion.

Planning and Recreation
Resources

[Forward email](#)



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